History of Plymouth Colony

When ten years had elapsed, 1630, the colony had increased to 300 persons. With the exception of an outpost established at Manomet, in Sandwich, the population was confined wholly to the town of Plymouth, including Kingston and Duxbury. By 1669 there were 10 towns:

1. 1620 - Plymouth, inclusive of the present towns of Kingston, Plympton, Carver, part of Halifax, and part of Wareham. Actually most everywhere was considered the town of Plymouth though there were sections of the town, like Green Harbor, which became Marshfield. *William* arrived by 22 Feb 1632

2.1632 - Duxbury is the 2nd town because its church, founded in 1632, was originally the 2nd church of Plymouth. Incorporated in 1637. Included Pembroke and Hanson. Large part became Marshfield in 1640. The town was first settled about the year 1632, by the people of Plymouth, although it is probable, according to the records, that there were some settlers in Duxbury before this period. But they returned to Plymouth, in the winter. *Hercules* from Kent arrives March 1635

3. 1636 -Scituate, including Hanover; lost part to Marshfield. It was called by the Indians, Satuit, and the name of the town in the earliest records in 1633, was Satuit; shortly after it was written Seteat, then Cittewat, and about 1640, the present name Scituate was settled. A village was laid out Aug- 2nd, 1633 by the *Men from Kent*. The principal street was called "Kent street;" it led from the bridge as it now lies, at the harbor, easterly to the third cliff. The settlers at Scituate, extinguished the Indian title by purchase as per deed, dated June, 1653, from the chief of the Matakeesets, signed by Josias Wampatuck, and given to Mr. Timothy Hatherly, Mr. James Cudworth, Mr. Joseph Tilden, Humphrey Turner, William Hatch, John Hoar and James Torrey, for the proper use and behoof of the inhabitants of the town of Scituate.

4. 1639 - Sandwich 4 – 7 are no longer in Plymouth COUNTY.

5. 1639 - Taunton

6. 1639 - Yarmouth

7. 1639 - Barnstable

8. 1640 - Marshfield, taken from Duxbury. It was enlarged with a section of Scituate. Marshfield was occupied during the summer, twelve years after the lauding at Plymouth. The first church was organized in 1632, which may therefore be regarded as the date of the settlement of the town, which was made in its south-west part, then called Green's Harbor, and afterwards Rexham. The town was incorporated in 1641, and the Second, or North Parish, was organized in 1739. The Indian name of the place was Missancatueket.

9. 1656 - Bridgewater

10. 1669 - Middleboro Town was incorporated July 1, 1669; destroyed 1675; resettled 1677.

[History of Plymouth Colony, https://www.accessgenealogy.com/massachusetts/history-of-plymouth-county-massachusetts.htm]

1620-1685: 17 INCORPORATED TOWNS IN PLYMOUTH COLONY: [town, P Colony]

Plymouth, Scituate, Duxbury, Marshfield, Barnstable, Sandwich, Yarmouth, Taunton, Eastham, Rehoboth, Dartmouth, Bridgewater, Swansea, Middleborough, Bristol, Little Compton, Freetown

1685: PLYMOUTH, BARNSTABLE, and BRISTOL COUNTIES: [town, county, P Colony]

1685: Plymouth County: Plymouth, Duxbury, Marshfield, Scituate, Bridgewater, Middleborough

Barnstable County: Barnstable, Sandwich, Eastham, Yarmouth,

Bristol County: Taunton, Rehoboth, Dartmouth, Swansea, Bristol, Little Compton, Freetown

7 October 1691: PLYMOUTH, BARNSTABLE and BRISTOL COUNTIES combined with Massachusetts Bay Colony to form the Province of Massachusetts, effective 14 May 1692

(EARLY FAMILIES OF SCITUATE; http://scituatehistoricalsociety.org/early-scituate-families/)